

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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Up-and-Coming

The Club will be closed on Monday, February 18, 1985, the legal observance of Washington's Birthday.

Correction Notice on Board of Governors Elections in April

Elections for the seven active openings on the Board of Governors and one Associate slot will take place in April, 1985.

Any member interested in running for this office should send a letter to OPC headquarters, attention nominating committee, by February 15, 1985.

Know Florida, Then Go

If you're thinking of moving to Florida, OPCer **Ed Wall** has some news for you. It's Wall's Florida Newsletter, an interesting eight pages of information about Florida and living there that should help the newcomer adjust without too much headache. Ed says he's producing the letter for non-Floridians who are thinking of moving to Florida to work or to retire. Well, as we view it, it would be a good idea to get Wall's Florida newsletter before you take another step.

Kupferberg's "Bach" Out March 21

March 21 this year is an important date for at least one OPCer and for music lovers all over the world. It's the day McGraw-Hill publishes the book "Basically Bach: a 300th Birthday Tribute." It's the day our own **Herb Kupferberg**, senior editor of Parade Magazine, celebrates the book's publication. Naturally. He wrote it.

Herb, you should know, is not only an editor, he is also well known as a music critic and has published a couple of other books on music. The book on Bach is a light-hearted account of his life and his loves. Congrats to Herb!

Bassow Finds Moscow "A Lot Easier"

Whitman Bassow is writing a book, *The Moscow Correspondents*, about the reporters who have covered Russia since the Bolshevik takeover in 1917. A former correspondent himself, he recently returned from the Soviet capital where he interviewed members of the U.S. press corps.

Jack Redden, UPI Bureau Manager, was suffering from a severe head cold, not something to be trifled within a Moscow winter. He had a cold remedy in the office, but there was not a word of English on the box. The instructions were in Finnish.

He sat down at the telex and punched a message to UPI's Helsinki bureau with the name of the product, requesting information and dosage details. The answer came back quickly.

"It's the most popular cold relief remedy in Finland. Start with two tablets then take one tablet every four hours. Hope you feel better."

The entire exchange took exactly eight minutes.

Redden's query to Helsinki is one example of the dramatic changes in working conditions of foreign correspondents in the Soviet Union. When I arrived in Moscow in 1960 to open a Newsweek bureau, such an exchange was impossible. There was still censorship of outgoing messages and, of course, there were no telexes. A reporter would have had to take the copy to the Central Telegraph on Gorki Street, submit it to the censor and hope that the Russians would not interpret the message as coded information on the Soviet space program. The reply would be delivered many hours later.

After a 22-year absence (I was expelled in 1962), I found much that had changed and much that has remained the same. The changes are significant. The number of U.S. correspondents has more than doubled from about 15 to 35. The number of news bureaus has increased. The newcomers are Cable News Network, the Washington Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune and U.S. News.

The most impressive change in personnel, however, is the number of women covering Moscow for the wire services. The AP bureau is headed by Roxinne Ervasti, an experienced reporter, on her first assignment

abroad. She is backed by Carol Williams, Leslie Smale, Nancy Traver, and Andrew Rosenthal. Redden, the UPI bureau manager, has Anna Christensen, Louise Branson and John Iams. Celestine Bohlen, daughter of the late Charles (Chip) Bohlen, ambassador to Moscow in the 50's, works in the Washington Post Bureau.

Among the current group of correspondents are a number who are on their second tour. Seth Mydans and Serge Schmemmann (New York Times), Nick Daniloff (U.S. News), Dusko Doder (Washington Post), Howard Tyner (Chicago Tribune) and the durable Ed Stevens (Newsday) who has worked the Moscow beat for 38 years.

Stuart Loory, who served in Moscow for the New York Herald Tribune until its demise in 1966, says that the principle reason he decided to return was that conditions had indeed changed. The direct telex connections with the home office and the easy communications between Moscow and the rest of the world diminished the feeling of isolation that prevailed in the old days.

In addition, correspondents now received multiple exit and re-entry visas once they are accredited. This means that they can leave any time and return any time at any authorized border point in the Soviet Union. When I was in Moscow, each departure required a separate application for an exit and re-entry visa. And there was no accommodation for medical or other kind of emergencies.

"If my son needs emergency medical treatment, I can drive out to Sheremetyeva (airport) and fly to Helsinki as long as I have a ticket. This makes life a lot easier for a reporter with children," says one correspondent.

The sense of isolation is further reduced by the fact that most bureaus receive the European services of the AP and UPI, the same reports received by news media in Western Europe. There's no longer any need to depend on the BBC or the Voice of America to find out what is going on "on the outside." The outside is now inside.

The Soviet government has significantly eased travel restrictions on foreign correspondents. When I worked in Moscow, if I wanted to visit Irkutsk, I had to request per-

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Letters

BRUSSELS—As any newspaperman knows, the most important single fact in an obit is the age of the deceased. This fact is glaringly missing in the obit on *Ben Lucien Burman*, as it has been in many other Bulletin obits in the past.

For the OPC, this is quite unprofessional.

Kind regards,

Mike (Michael Horton)

BERLIN—A bit of personal news. On 12 January I shall retire after one whale of a career capped by 16 years in Berlin. My wife and I will go roam around the world, mainly basing in Thailand (Chiangmai),

Mail will be forwarded to us by my brother whose address for my mail is: 29 Tower Hill Street, Lawrence, MA 01841, telephone (617) 683-7489.

I'll be happy to hear from fellow OPCers or meet with any who catch up with us.

Fraternally,

Stanley P. Silbey

(Who had been deputy, public affairs, U.S. Command, Berlin.)

NEW YORK—I have just read the piece "Another Way to Win a War" in the December Bulletin.

I was assigned to the Psychological Warfare Branch from my duty with the Office of War Information in London during World War II. The PWB then appointed me chief of psychological warfare for General Patton's Third U.S. Army, and we worked hard at "our way" of helping to win the war.

I would appreciate it if you would pass this on to Peter Wyden so that I can receive notice of the next reunion.

—Edward Gottlieb

CHEVY CHASE—After 30-plus years languishing in a remote corner of *Arthur Holzman's* Chevy Chase, Maryland, basement, a collection of 126 of his original broadcast discs, dating from his 1947-51 coverage of the creation of Israel and her War of Independence, has found a more suitable final resting place: the New York Jewish Museum's newly-established National Jewish Archive of Broadcasting.

—Art Holzman

January's BULLETIN identified four OPCers as having served in psychological warfare in WW2. We apologize for having overlooked a fifth OPCer who served in that part of the war. He is **John Anspacher**, who is quoted in the last paragraph of the piece as having said "We had the feeling we were contributing to the war effort without actually killing anyone. That's the most important thing."

More from Bassow

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mission from the Press Department of the Foreign Ministry. Very often, there would be no response or permission was so delayed that all interest in such a trip would disappear. Now, the correspondent is required only to inform the Ministry in advance of a trip and with ticket in hand, can depart.

Censorship, of course, was terminated in March 1961. Since then, correspondents have been able to file copy by phone or telex from their offices. The special entrance to the Central Telegraph through which dozens of correspondents once passed to submit copy to the censor is now padlocked.

In 1984, the Soviet unveiled a modern approach to news management: the press conference. Conducted by Vladimir Lomeiko, head of the Press Department and official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, these conferences are held in a new, wood-paneled News Center equipped for print and electronic reporting. Lomeiko has proven to be a smooth and often evasive purveyor of official information who rarely deviates from the announced subject of the conference.

"But we have to show up because we don't want to miss anything," says Carol Williams.

Do these easier working conditions help get out the full story of life in the Soviet Union?

No, but they make life a lot easier for the correspondents. The facts of reportorial life are still very much the same: there is no regular access to top decision-makers such as Chernenko or Gromyko. Correspondents are still under surveillance by the KGB. They still live in compounds behind walls guarded around the clock by KGB militia who bar unauthorized Soviet citizens from entering. Correspondents are still attacked in the Soviet press for writing "slanders against the Soviet people" or chastized by the Press Department for "violating" regulations. They also receive warnings from "colleagues" in the Soviet press establishment.

The improved working conditions, however, provide correspondents with a greater sense of security. They feel that despite the fact that they work in a totalitarian society, the government is becoming more accommodating to the needs of the foreign press.

In the final analysis, much depends on the individual reporter. Those that have command of Russian are surprised and delighted by their ability to "penetrate" Soviet society, to find out what people think and how they live. Those who cannot speak Russian are frustrated and confined to the invisible wall which surrounds them where ever they go in Moscow and elsewhere.

Everybody I talked to relishes the assignment, the challenge and excitement of covering the other superpower.

Moscow is still the supreme journalistic challenge and as Clifton Daniel once described it—"the Golden Dateline."



Eugene Lyons, 85 years of age, Founder member and second president of the Overseas Press Club died at his home on January 7, 1985. Former United Press correspondent in Moscow in the late 20's and early 30's.

Until his retirement in the 70's he was senior editor of Reader's Digest for over 25 years. He was also editor of Pageant and American Mercury. He was the author of numerous books.

He was survived by three sisters and a brother-in-law.

A memorial service for Eugene Lyons will be held on Monday, Feb. 25, 1985 at 5:30 p.m. in the presidents room.

Stanley Frankel, who has been an active OPCer for more than a quarter-century, has been elected president of Phi Beta Kappa Associates. His first brush with that intellectual set was at Northwestern U, when he was elected to the fraternity in his junior year.

Stan's talents were not only in intellectual and journalistic endeavors. He was a combat officer in WW2, decorated numerous times for bravery and retired as a major. He has been an aide and speechwriter for Adlai Stevenson, Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern. He served on two presidential commissions, the Peace Corps and Youth Opportunity. He wrote the history of the 37th Division in WW2.

He has been trustee and VP of the NY YMCA, was on the board of overseers of Rutgers, in an adjunct prof at Baruch and Pace—and is a senior officer of the Ogden Corp.



Will Oursler, 71 years of age, Past President of the Overseas Press Club (1970-72) died on January 7, 1985. He was a graduate of Harvard and the Collegiate School (Cum Laude). World War II correspondent in the Pacific. Recipient of a citation for meritorious service as a war correspondent from Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and also a commendation citation from the U.S. Navy for service as a war correspondent in the Pacific areas.

Author of numerous books and a wide range of magazine articles.

He is survived by his wife Ad and son William.

A memorial service for Will Oursler will be held on Monday, March 4, 1985 at 5:30 p.m. in the presidents room.

Joseph Willicombe, Jr., former Vice President of King Features Syndicate, died on Saturday, January 12, 1985 in Hallendale Florida.

He was a World War II correspondent for International News Service. He covered the Fifth Army in Italy and reported the death of Gen. George Patton in Germany.

He was a member of the Overseas Press Club since 1945.

Helen Robinson, a prolific feature writer for the New York Globe and the Sun and the Paris Herald, died in New York after a long illness. She had been an active member of the club. She was Paris correspondent for Vogue and helped to found Mademoiselle. In the late 30s she was a consultant to the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department.

In the 50s she was an assistant to Sam Levinson in producing his show for CBS. With Mary Margaret Mc Bride she wrote Paris is a Woman's Town, followed by London Is a Man's Town and New York Is Everybody's Town.

Greg McDonald Is Busy Busy Busy

For OPCer **Gregory McDonald** this is going to be a busy busy year. It starts off with his being president of the Mystery Writers of America. Comes April, Warner Books will publish "The Education of Gregory McDonald." Comes June 6, Universal Pictures will release to 1,200 U.S. theaters the film "Fletch," starring Chevy Chase, directed by Michael Ritchie.

Comes the summer, "Fletch and the Man Who" is scheduled for filming. Comes August, Warner Books will publish "Fletch Won," (8th in the series) in hardback and reprint "Flynn's In" (3rd in the series) in soft cover.

Orion Pictures has scheduled a 2-hour TV movie, series to follow, based on "Flynn's In" for the fall.

In October, Penzler Press will publish in hardcover the non-mystery novel, "Safekeeping."

But McDonald has always been a busy guy. He won the Edgar Allan Poe award in 1955 and 1977. For years he wrote for the Boston Globe as arts and humanities editor and critic-at-large columnist.

For those of us fascinated by the language of contemporary electronics and related sciences, OPC member **Frank Jay**, editor in chief, presents THE IEEE STANDARD DICTIONARY OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS TERMS, 1984, published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers as its Centennial Edition.

There are 1,173 pages in this compendium, containing over 23,000 terms defined. It took seven years to compile. Congratulations to Frank!

Culture Keeps Milli Too Busy for OPC

Milli Janz, who runs the American Community Cultural Center Association from Pompton Plains, N.J., has been forced by "so many commitments" to resign from OPC. The Admissions Committee, she writes, "offered to reinstate me whenever I want to rejoin."

"Give everyone at OPC my best wishes for a Happy New Year," she writes, "it was important fun being a member of OPC, and whenever I attended a luncheon I always came away with vital information and another good friend. I'll miss them until I can join them again."

We shall miss Milli and we hope for her early return.

New Applications

ACTIVE RESIDENT

John A. Bowman, Freelance, Roffman News Services Staff Correspondent

Sponsors: *Max Rosey, Donald Lester*

Eugene E. Forson, Correspondent, Ghana News Agency

Sponsors: *Marguerite Cartwright, Donald Shannon*

Lee M. Oser, Jr., Pres./Publisher, Hampton Int'l Communications

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

Bent Albrechtsen, US Editor, Berlingske, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sponsors: *Yve J. Laudy, Ben Greenwald*

Francis R. Evence, Correspondent, LeMatin, Switzerland

Sponsor: *Yve J. Laudy*

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Joan V. Custin, Self, Pres. Custin Public Relations

Sponsors: *Joan F. Lane, Betty Vaughn*

Robert L. Feinsod, Pres., Roka Sales Co.

Sponsors: *Arnold E. Abramson, Charles Schreiber*

AFFILIATE

Joseph H. Povey, Johnson Matthey Inc., Manager, Public Affairs

Sponsors: *Ben Greenwald, Murray Schumach*

New Members

ACTIVE OVERSEAS

James R. Bittermann

Rod Nordland

Pat Thompson

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Bonita Kay Wagner

REINSTATED

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Joseph J. Hanson



Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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Washington Ticker

by JESSIE STEARNS

Helen Thomas, dean of the White House press corps, and UP White House bureau chief, received the 12th National Press Club Fourth Estate Award, at the Club, on Dec. 5.

This is Helen's sixth "FIRST" award, received for her coverage of six presidents and 23 years covering the White House.

She was the first woman named White House Bureau Chief of a major wire service; first woman admitted to the Gridiron Club; first woman President of the White House Correspondents Association; first woman officer of the National Press Club; first woman to receive the Fourth Estate award, and first wire reporter to receive it.

Over 500 members and friends attended the reception and dinner.

Three former award winners were present: Richard Strout, Christian Science Monitor; Herbert Block Washington Post; and Simeon S. Booker, Johnson Publishing Co.

NPC President John Fogarty presided and introduced the four "roasters": "Dear Abby" (Abigail Van Buren) who was asked to come and speak at her own expense. (She did, accompanied by her husband, Morton Phillips.) In her three-minute speech, she said, "I'll pay to go anywhere and talk about Helen Thomas." Sam Donaldson, ABC, told of suggesting to Helen that she shovel dirt on a cedar of Lebanon tree being planted on the White House lawn, because Helen is of Lebanese heritage.

Larry Speakes, White House deputy press secretary, said Helen does give him trouble. "You can't fool her. Oh, you try to pull the wool over her eyes, but you can't." Speakes read a letter from President Reagan, who wrote, "Helen, you have become an important part of the American presidency." Speakes continued, "Helen is always first, always accurate, and always fair."

Grant Dillman, former UPI, Washington Bureau vice president, and her "boss", said, "Helen ignored her boss. I've told her many times to cut out the 12- and 15-hour days."

Helen spoke after the roast, "I am deeply honored and grateful to UPI to assign me to cover the White House. Early I decided presidents were human beings. I've seen two presidents go down the drain—Johnson and Nixon—and I've learned 'nobody is above the law.' Our credibility stands up against presidents. The press report card is before the public. Every president has trouble with the press."

Peter Kihss

By Robert D. McFadden

Peter Kihss, a reporter for The New York Times and other news organizations for nearly half a century until his retirement in 1982, died of a heart attack Friday night at his home in Jamaica Estates, Queens. He was 72 years old.

Mr. Kihss often uncovered human dramas behind drab welfare statistics and ponderous government reports. Many of his best stories focused on people: immigrants, the poor, sooty firefighters, people snared in webs of bureaucracy and the personalities behind the masks of politicians and celebrities.

But he wrote dispassionately about a wide range of topics—state and city government, elections, transportation, education, labor, newspapers, utilities, crime, civil liberties, Communist and Nazi political affairs, the weather and other subjects.

In a career that began in 1933, he worked for The Associated Press, The Washington Post, The New York World-Telegram, The New York Herald Tribune and, for 30 years until his retirement on Aug. 31, 1982, The Times. For each employer, he covered stories with a grasp and an eye for color and detail that awed competitors and colleagues alike.

He was, by nearly every standard of American journalism, an ideal reporter: thorough, fast, tenacious and objective, with an encyclopedic memory, voluminous contacts and the ability to write with speed, grace and a towering calm against a deadline.

Early in his career, Mr. Kihss was a foreign correspondent in South America, and he later covered school-integration battles in the South and breaking news for The Times in various parts of the country. But he was most at home in New York as a general-assignment reporter covering urban riots and plane crashes, the hoopla of parades and

politics and the intricacies of nuclear power and municipal budgets.

As a World-Telegram reporter during the administration of Fiorello H. La Guardia, Mr. Kihss was often sent to City Hall when the paper had what he called "a nasty story on which to query the Mayor."

For decades, he was an active member of the New York Newspaper Guild and various journalistic organizations, and he often wrote for their publications and spoke at their meetings. A tall, stoop-shouldered, baldish man with a nimbus of gray hair, he looked more like an Old World clockmaker than one of the nation's most distinguished reporters.

Peter Frederick Kihss was born in Brooklyn, the son of Latvian immigrants.

In 1933, after graduating from Columbia University and working briefly with The Associated Press in Washington, he was a Pulitzer scholar and part-time correspondent for The Times in Uruguay and Argentina for a year. He became a reporter for The Washington Post in 1934, joined The World-Telegram in 1936 and switched to The Herald Tribune in 1943, primarily covering the United Nations. He joined The Times on Jan. 6, 1952.

Mr. Kihss won many awards over the years, from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism; Sigma Delta Chi, the society of journalists; the New York Newspaper Guild; the Society of Silurians; the New York Press Club, and others. He was nominated for Pulitzer Prizes on four occasions.

This year, the Fund for the City of New York established the Peter Kihss Award for outstanding reporting on the city government and named Mr. Kihss the first recipient of the \$5,000 annual prize.

Surviving are his wife, Alice; a son, Erik, of Brooklyn; a daughter, Wendy Van Brunt of North Babylon, L.I., and one grandchild.

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